

MRS. MARGARET CAROLINE RUDD'S

C A S E,

RESPECTING MR. R. PERREAU,

C O N S I D E R E D.

[Price One Shilling.]

Mrs. MARGARET CAROLINE RUDOLPH

CASE

RESPECTING MR. R. PERRIN

CONSIDERED.

[Price One Shilling]

Mrs. Marg. Car. Rudd's
C A S E
CONSIDERED, RESPECTING
Robert Perreau;
IN AN
A D D R E S S
T O
HENRY DRUMMOND, Esq.
AND THE
GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY
WHO TRIED
Mr. ROBERT PERREAU;
WITH A
Comparative View
Of his TRIAL and his
LAST SOLEMN DECLARATION.

L O N D O N :
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CHURCH-YARD.

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JUNE 1935

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IN AN

ADDRESS

TO

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LONDON:

PRINTED BY J. WHEAT, NO. 7, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

CHURCH YARD.

MDCCCXCV.

GENTLEMEN,

The following observations upon the trial of Robert Perreau, are submitted to your candid perusal, by

Your humble servant,

THE AUTHOR.

GENTLEMEN,

The following observations upon the trial of Robert Patterson, are submitted to your candid perusal by

Your humble servant,

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E.

FROM the uncommon pains that have been taken to save Mr. Robert Perreau, one would really think that the witnesses who appeared against him were men of no credit, the jury dead to all sense of feeling, and the judge out of his senses : but when we see such names as Drummond and Wilson, and read their testimony, which is the clearest, and told in the most plain and familiar manner, and reflect that the jury who tried him were composed of a set of very upright, respectable, and humane gentlemen, we are astonished what could give rise to all the interest that has been made.

To

To believe him innocent, we must pay no credit to the witnesses, and conclude him, what even his friends will not allow, that he was weaker than an idiot ; for without it, the facts which have appeared preclude every idea of innocence.

Mrs.

MRS. MARGARET CAROLINE RUDD'S

CASE CONSIDERED.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE lately read a letter to the Earl of Suffolk, intitled the innocence of Robert Perreau demonstrated; I cannot but acknowledge that the title of the book excited my curiosity, and induced me to peruse a pamphlet, as cruel in one respect as it is weak and puerile in another. I never could have believed that there was a man in this country who would have set down coolly and

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deliberately to abuse a poor woman, who for aught appears, may be very innocent; and this merely to demonstrate the innocence of a man who has been legally convicted of one of the most dangerous offences that can be committed in a commercial country. The gentleman who has thus kindly stood forth the advocate of Robert Perreau, who boasts so much of the tenderness of his disposition, and who has so great a share of the milk of human kindness in his composition, would have done well, and have acted more consistent with the character he has assumed, if he had delayed the publication of his pamphlet, at least till after Mrs. Rudd's trial. He may boast as much as he will of his humanity, but there is not a man in this kingdom who will believe him to be possessed of a grain, when he recollects that Mrs. Rudd, till legally convicted,

ed, is an innocent woman, and that the publication of this pamphlet was avowedly designed to throw an odium upon her character, and to excuse a person as fairly convicted as ever man was, at the expence of another, who, till tried, the law always considers, and I am sure every person of the least humanity or common sense presumes, innocent. This gentleman seems extremely angry and much enraged at several publications in the daily news-papers, against his favourite and friend, Robert Perreau. I agree with him most heartily, that it was very cruel as well as indecent to publish any thing against a poor wretch in his unhappy situation; but it was much more cruel to publish, as he has done, a pamphlet against a person not so much as tried for the crimes he so lavishly and barbarously charged her with.

I would advise him, for the future, never to talk of a halter in the company of a man whose father has been hanged : it is an English proverb, and conveys a deal of good sense.

If he could have said any thing to have saved either of the Perreaus without thus wantonly abusing Mrs. Rudd, he would have acted a very humane part ; I should have admired his conduct upon the occasion. It would have argued a benevolence of mind truly commendable, and every well disposed person must have been pleased with it ; but he has taken a part, and a very active one too, as inconsistent with every idea of humanity, as it is replete with injustice. The gentleman's own arguments confute themselves ; and so far from serving that cause he wished well to, have really done

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an injury to it. He has spared no one to obtain his ends ; Mrs. Rudd, jury, judge, and all, are indiscriminately abused to serve his purpose ; and after all, one would think, from several parts of his pamphlet, that instead of vindicating the character of Robert Perreau and manifesting his innocence to the public, he really intended the contrary ; for he has taken uncommon pains to extract from his trial those particular passages which when well weighed and considered, cannot leave a doubt in the mind of any one of his guilt. I own myself, that if either of them ought to have been saved, for aught that appears upon their trials, Daniel is confessedly the least guilty. But let us examine the trial of Robert, and see the evidence of Mr. Drummond upon the occasion ; his words are as follows : “ The prisoner, Mr. Robert Perreau, came to me about the
“ middle

“ middle of last January, the 15th or 16th;
 “ he said he desired the favour of me to let
 “ him have the loan of one thousand four
 “ hundred pounds; that he had occasion
 “ for this money, as he had lately made a
 “ purchase in Suffolk or Norfolk to the
 “ amount of twelve or fourteen thousand
 “ pounds. I told him that the title deeds
 “ of such an estate were a good security,
 “ and if he would leave them, he might
 “ have the money. Mr. Perreau said, that
 “ could not be, because the purchase-money
 “ was to be paid in the country. Then he
 “ said he had got a bond of a gentleman
 “ whose name he was not at liberty at that
 “ time to mention, but that if I knew the
 “ person he was sure I could make no objec-
 “ tion to it. I said, every thing depends on
 “ the name, for some men's bonds are as good
 “ as other men's mortgages. Then he said,
 “ he had a house in Harley-Street, Caven-
 “ish -

“dish-Square, which cost four thousand
 “pounds, and he would leave with me the
 “deeds of that house, and the insurance of
 “it, as a security for the one thousand four
 “hundred pounds; accordingly he came
 “the next day, and did leave the deeds of
 “the house as a security, and he received
 “the money upon a note, promising to assign
 “the deeds and do every thing that was ne-
 “cessary, but as he only wanted it for ten
 “days, I only took a note for it, without
 “any further promise; this was about the
 “15th or 16th of January. I did not see
 “him again till Tuesday the 7th of March.
 “I was acquainted with him before, as an
 “apothecary, having known and seen him
 “in two or three families, particularly
 “Lord Egmont’s and Lord ——. When
 “he came on the 7th of March, he
 “made an apology for not having kept
 “his

“ his word as to the one thousand four hun-
 “ dred pounds, which he borrowed but for
 “ ten days, and he came then to borrow
 “ five thousand pounds, out of which he
 “ was to pay this one thousand four hun-
 “ dred. He then told me that he had got
 “ leave of the gentleman whose bond he
 “ formerly mentioned to give me his name.
 “ I asked my brother Robert to come in to
 “ consult about the propriety of lending
 “ such a sum as that. The prisoner then
 “ produced this bond; as soon as we saw
 “ it, we both expressed a disbelief of its
 “ being Mr. Adair’s bond, and asked the
 “ prisoner, if it was Mr. William Adair’s,
 “ the late agent, that lived in Pall Mall?
 “ *He said, Yes, it was, and that there could*
 “ *be no doubt about it,* for that Arthur
 “ Jones, who was the solicitor of Mr. Adair,
 “ was a witness, and Start was his servant.
 “ I still

“ I still expressed my doubts about the au-
 “ thenticity of the bond : upon which the
 “ prisoner said, Mr. Adair was his particular
 “ friend ; that there were family connec-
 “ tions between them ; that Mr. Adair had
 “ money of his in his hands, and that he
 “ allowed him interest for it. I understood,
 “ likewise, from him, but I cannot be cer-
 “ tain of that particular fact, that the pri-
 “ soner at that time said, that this bond was
 “ given by Mr. Adair to him, as the balance
 “ of the account subsisting between Mr.
 “ Adair and him. Notwithstanding that,
 “ we told him that we did not believe it to
 “ be the hand-writing of Mr. William
 “ Adair, because we had had dealings with
 “ him a good while ago, and seen his
 “ draughts ; and we desired him to call the
 “ next day.

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“ He

“ He accordingly took the bond with
 “ him and went away, but in about two
 “ hours he returned ; my brother was then
 “ gone out, and I saw him alone—He told
 “ me, what my brother and I had thrown
 “ out respecting the signature to the bond,
 “ had alarmed him very much, *and that*
 “ *he could not be easy in his own mind till*
 “ *he had called upon Mr. Adair, whom he*
 “ *luckily met before he went to take his*
 “ *ride ; that he produced the bond to Mr.*
 “ *Adair, and Mr. Adair said it was his sig-*
 “ *nature, and that he might possibly have al-*
 “ *tered his hand from the time we had for-*
 “ *merly seen him write ; but that we might*
 “ *let him have the five thousand pounds ;*
 “ *and that Mr. Adair said he would pay*
 “ *the bond in May, though in fact it*
 “ *was not payable till July. Notwith-*
 “ *standing all this, I still had my doubts.*
 “ I did

“ I did not express them so strong, but told
 “ the prisoner, that he should leave the
 “ bond with me, in order to get an assign-
 “ ment of it, which he did, as I was desi-
 “ rous to get possession of the bond, in or-
 “ der to find out whether it was really a
 “ good bond or not. The prisoner very
 “ readily left the bond with me, without
 “ any memorandum given by me.”

I defy any man of common sense to read
 this evidence, and not pronounce Mr. Ro-
 bert Perreau guilty. It is impossible for
 any one, who is not predetermined to believe
 any thing however romantic and absurd, to
 hesitate a moment about the propriety of
 the verdict. Is it likely? Is it natural for
 Mr. Perreau, who wanted to borrow mo-
 ney upon the credit of a bond from Mr.
 Adair to him, to doubt about telling Mr.

Adair's name? Where was the harm of it? Mr. Drummond is a man of too much honour and credit to have gone and told all the world that he had lent Mr. Perreau a sum of money upon Mr. Adair's bond; besides, people of Mr. Drummond's situation in life are as silent as the grave about money transactions; they never talk of those things in publick; it is incompatible with the character of a banker to do so. The fact is, Mr. Perreau either had not the bond by him at that time, or he had some qualms of conscience about borrowing money upon it. Again. What will any man say to the story of his having made a purchase in Suffolk or Norfolk to the amount of twelve or fourteen thousand pounds? Is that likely to be true, when he did not produce a single tittle of evidence to shew that he
had

had either purchased it, or even so much as contracted for it. These were facts that rested in his own breast. If true, how easy would it have been for him to have produced the person at the Old Bailey to have told the whole story: but the truth is, he never was in treaty with any man for an estate in Suffolk, Norfolk, or elsewhere, for twelve or fourteen thousand pounds. He knew the whole story to be a falsehood, and he meant to have borrowed money upon the credit of it: but Mr. Drummond being a man of too much sense to be fooled out of his property by such a contrivance, Mr. Perreau, therefore, had recourse to the bond, for he found that every other means was unlikely to secure the money he wished to raise.

The more a man reflects upon dates and times, the more he will be convinced of
the

the propriety of attending to them ; for it is such little circumstances as these which clear up matters beyond a possibility of doubt ; therefore if any one will attend to the evidence of Mr. Richard Wilton, who filled up the bond in February or March for the prisoner, and at his request antedated it in January, he will soon be convinced, upon comparing it with Mr. Drummond's evidence, that Mr. Robert Perreau could by no means be an innocent man. For God's sake, why should this bond be antedated ? Why ! because Mr. Perreau, if he did not carry a bond dated in January, or at a time prior to that period, naturally concluded he should have awakened the suspicion of Mr. Drummond, and have subjected himself to immediate detection—He was conscious of it ; and that was the true reason of having the bond antedated.

Many

Many arguments have been formed, and great stress laid upon Mr. Robert Perreau's leaving the bond with Mr. Drummond so readily: his consenting the next day to go with Mr. Drummond to Mr. Adair's house, has, in the opinion of many very sensible people, weighed greatly in his favour, and induced them to believe him perfectly innocent—Far be from me to have insulted any man in distress; I feel a pleasure in relieving, rather than in increasing the miseries of the wretched: but in a case like this, justice alone ought to take place; for the same humanity which prompted me to pour oil into the Perreau's wounds, forbid me to stab Mrs. Rudd. The innocent should not be charged, that the guilty or the suspected might pass with impunity. Justice and common sense forbid it. Nor should a jury of Englishmen, famed for
their

their tenderness, be made to give up their understanding to prove their humanity. Their duty to themselves, and the obligations they owe to the publick, require no such behaviour from them : they are to be satisfied of the truth of the evidence against, or in favour of, the prisoner ; and, convinced of the one or the other, they are to act accordingly ; their consciences forbid them to discharge any one whose guilt has been proved, and their own feelings, as men, naturally induce them to acquit the innocent. Influenced by these motives, and attentive to their duty as jurymen, they have done, as all jurymen who pay any regard to their oaths would have done, they found Robert Perreau guilty. The circumstance of leaving the bond, and going with Mr. Drummond to Mr. Adair's house, did not weigh a feather in his favour, if properly attended to.

to: he could do no otherwise; he had no alternative: he must either have acknowledged himself guilty by the refusal, or have run the risk of detection——Unfortunately for him, Mr. Adair, who was generally out at that time of the day, having been sent to by Mr. Drummond, stayed at home, and the whole affair was brought to light.

But it has been contended that the falsehood told by Mr. Robert Perreau to Mr. Drummond respecting the interview with Mr. Adair, “was not with a bad design of defrauding Mr. Drummond, but with a good design of serving his friend.” I really do not very well comprehend what the gentleman aimed at by this doctrine. Did he mean to contend that a robbery committed by a son to relieve the distresses of a father is justifiable; or that friendship
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could

could warrant such a proceeding? If this be the point he wished to establish, all argument is at an end. Such doctrine strikes at the very root of society, and would introduce all those inconveniences which in a state of nature mankind were exposed to. Will any man who has the least regard for honour or honesty, insist that Mr. Robert Perreau's design of procuring money from Mr. Drummond upon the credit of this bond was not a bad one, because the money was to be raised for the service of his friend? Surely there cannot be found a person weak or wicked enough to maintain such a doctrine. But all arguments in favour of *that* poor unhappy man are now at an end; he is no more. He has paid that forfeiture the offended justice of his country called for. I wish to God he had let the memory of his evil deeds been
buried

buried with him, he had then done well; but he has taken great pains to perpetuate them, and that paper he delivered to the ordinary, so far from answering the cruel purpose designed, of fixing a stigma upon Mrs. Rudd, will, when compared with Mr. Wilson's evidence, have the direct contrary effect. I will transcribe that part of the trial, and Robert Perreau's last solemn declaration, that they may be examined and compared together.

Richard Wilson.

Q. Please to look at the bond in question; it is I believe your filling up.

Wilson. It is; I filled it up at the request of the prisoner at the bar.

Where

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Q. When

Q. When did you fill it up

Wilson. The latter end of *February*, or the beginning of *March* last.

Q. I perceive it bears date the 25th of January.

Wilson. I recollect I antidated it to the preceding January, at the request of the prisoner.

Q. When you had so filled it up and antidated it, did you give it back to the prisoner?

Wilson. I did.

Q. And you never had it from any other hand, or give it to any other hand but the prisoner?

Wilson. No.

Q. Where

Q. Where was it filled up?

Wilson. At my house, at Charing-Cross.

Q. Was any other person present?

Wilson. No, except it was some of my family.

Q. You say, you did it by his direction; you had the directions I believe in writing?

Wilson. I had.

Q. Then produce them?

Wilson. These were the instructions the prisoner gave me. (*Producing them.*)

Q. Did he say any thing about the instructions, or what should be done with them?

Wilson.

Wilson. He said, Mr. Wilson, I have given you the instructions upon a piece of paper, *I desire you will burn it.* I told him, there was a minute upon the back of the paper of a petition to the recorder, and I could not burn it then, because of that minute. *He desired I would burn it, when I had done with it,* and I promised I would; but I put it in my desk and it slipped my memory.

Q. There were no names upon this bond at the time you filled it up?

Wilson. None.

Q. I see part of these instructions are scored through?

Wilson. They are.

Q. Who was that done by?

Wilson.

Wilson. The prisoner; after I had filled up the bond and before he left me.

Q. Can you read what is scored through?

Wilson. Yes; it is, *William Adair of Pall Mall, in the parish of St. James's, in the county of Middlesex, Esq; to Robert Perreau of Golden Square, in the county of Middlesex, aforesaid, Esq; the sum of 7500l. to be paid upon the 7th of July next.*

Q. Did he score this through after you had said you could not burn it then?

Wilson. He said, Mr. Wilson, we cannot burn this, because of the minute at the back. You will be sure to burn it; I said, I will.

Q. Have you filled up any other bonds for the prisoner before?

Wilson. I have.

ROBERT

ROBERT PERREAU'S Declaration.

" As I am now going to appear before
 " my great and just God, to answer for all
 " my actions, I do solemnly declare to the
 " world in these my last moments, and I
 " call God to witness, that I never had
 " the least knowledge or suspicion of crimi-
 " nality whatever in any of the bonds or
 " other securities that I negociated of Mr.
 " William Adair's for Mrs. Margaret Ca-
 " roline Rudd and my unhappy brother, but
 " did always believe them to be valid and
 " genuine securities. I do solemnly de-
 " clare also, that I did firmly believe, till
 " the moment the forgery was discovered,
 " that Mrs. Rudd and my brother were inti-
 " mately acquainted and connected with Mr.
 " William Adair, as they had from time to
 " time

“time imposed upon me; and under this
 “firm belief I was led to negotiate these se-
 “curities; and when the bond I carried to
 “Mr. Drummond to raise the money up-
 “on was objected to, as not being the
 “hand-writing of Mr. Adair, I applied to
 “Mrs. Rudd to inform Mr. Adair of it,
 “who returned, and told me she had seen
 “him, and that he would satisfy Mr.
 “Drummond that it was his hand-wri-
 “ting if he would call or send to him
 “about it, and desired I would return to
 “Mr. Drummond and tell him so. Ac-
 “cordingly I returned to Mr. Drummond,
 “and from the implicit confidence I had
 “in all Mrs. Rudd told me, I inadver-
 “tently gave her words to him as my
 “own, saying, that I had seen Mr. Adair;
 “but this I solemnly protest was done
 “from no motive of defrauding whatever:

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“ not

" nor did I ever detain any of the monies
 " arising from the discounts of these secu-
 " rities for my own use : therefore through
 " my imprudence, or folly in telling a fal-
 " sity I am unhappily brought to an ig-
 " nominiuous and shameful death.

" ROBERT PERREAU."

Now what do the contents of this paper
 amount to? Do they establish his inno-
 cence, respecting the crime he was about
 to suffer for? By no means. He only says,
 that he never had the least knowledge or
 suspicion of criminality whatever, in any of
 the bonds, or other securities, that he nego-
 ciated of Mr. William Adair, for Mrs.
 Margaret Rudd and his unhappy brother,
 but did always believe them to have been
 valid and genuine securities. He does not
 say,

say, he did not publish the bond from William Adair to himself, (Robert Perreau) for that is the crime he was found guilty of. He might very easily have said, he was not guilty of the crime he was about to suffer for, but he did not chuse to deny the knowledge of that transaction, and if he had, no person could have believed him, without discrediting the unimpeached testimony of Mr. Wilson, whose evidence is singularly strong upon the occasion.

Mr. Wilson has not only produced the very written instructions he received from the prisoner to fill up the bond, but he has also related the whole conversation which passed upon the occasion; and what fell from Robert Perreau indicated a degree of guilt beyond any thing that has appeared. Would any innocent person have expressed that anxious concern for the

burning the instructions given to Mr. Wilson, which Robert Perreau shewed? Surely not! But the transaction would not bear day-light, and therefore Robert wished to destroy that paper, he was afraid would one day or other rise in judgment against him. More concurring circumstances never appeared to prove a case, than what have been produced upon this occasion.

A series of falsehoods, unnecessary falsehoods, joined to a conscious guilt, have appeared throughout this whole affair; and Robert's last solemn declaration, without removing a tittle of his own guilt, has shewn a malevolence against Mrs. Rudd, scarcely to be pardoned, even by an Englishman. He might have died in charity with every one at least; he would then have died like a christian: but that would not have

have answered his purpose. The efforts of his friends were found fruitless, himself was likely to become a victim, and the justice of his country, in all probability, would raise superior to the artifices made use of to evade it; he therefore chose to leave this unmeaning, evasive, and unsatisfactory paper behind him, to keep those whom he had influenced to believe him innocent in the same persuasion: but unless his friends are determined to believe any thing, to consider him as the weakest of all human beings, they must acknowledge that there does not remain a doubt concerning the propriety of his conviction, the truth of his guilt, and the justice of his punishment. Too great praise, therefore, cannot be given to the executive magistrate of this kingdom, for his firm, steady, and unshaken behaviour upon the occasion, who, whilst he felt like a man, preserved the dignity of

of a king; and by rejecting all applications, and suffering the laws of the land to take their course, has thereby taught his subjects this useful lesson, That no connection, however great, no interest, however powerful, is able to screen a criminal from justice.

FINIS.

